

## MERCATOR:

OR,

## Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Thursday, February 25. to Saturday, February 27. 1713.

Five notorious *Falshoods asserted by the Opposers of this Paper, relating to the Portugal Trade.*  
*The Mercator undertakes to Confute and Expose them all.*

*Farther Evidence that Druggets and Cloth-Serges were not Prohibited in Portugal before the Treaty.*

*A Scheme of our Export to Portugal for the Year 1702.*

*They are not able to give an Account of any Goods Imported from Portugal to Ballance it.*

*The Overs and Unders stated between the Year 1704 and the Year 1702.*

THE Opposers of the Treaty of Commerce being very full of their Boasts of the Trade to Portugal, which they bring in, to play it against the Trade to France; have alledged five Things:

1. That the Treaty of Commerce with France interfering with the Treaty of Commerce with Portugal, the Portuguese will Prohibit our Woollen Manufactures there.

2. That our Cloth-Serges and Druggets were Prohibited in Portugal before the said Treaty.

3. That our Trade to Portugal had no Ballance before the Treaty.

4. That we gain a Million per Ann: by the Portugal Treaty: and which is also implied.

5. That we have gain'd this Addition by the said Treaty.

The *MERCATOR* says, and undertakes to prove every one of these Assertions to be false. *To the first* the *MERCATOR* has spoken already, and proved, that the Treaty it self directs plainly, that no other Manufactures shall be Prohibited than was Prohibited before: And though they would quibble with the Word AGAIN, as if it signified only renewing a Prohibition in general; 'tis evident it is meant of the particular Prohibition; (viz.) to Prohibit the Woollen Cloths again. And as to the King of Portugal's Prohibiting our whole Trade, or all or any other of our Woollen Manufacture; the Suggestion is scandalous and absurd. 1. It is scandalous, as was said formerly, because it is a treacherous Exposing our Nation, as if we were in Subjection to the Portuguese in matters of Trade, and in fear of their Prohibiting our Trade; which, if it were true, it were a Betraying our Country to make it publick; and as it is not true, it is scandalous to have it suggested, especially out of our own Mouths. 2. It is absurd, because it is evident from many Circumstances, that the Portuguese are as much Gainers by, and stand more in need of their Trade with us, than we do of our Trade with them; and for this Reason it is not probable, that for such a trifling Clause as this is, which we are speaking of, (for it is but a Trifle compared to the whole Trade) the King of Portugal would at once

Prohibit a Trade, which his whole Kingdom so much depends upon, and which the *MERCATOR* affirms would ruin his whole Country to Prohibit: Of which by it self.

The second Falshood they affirm is, That our Serges and Druggets were Prohibited before the Treaty: This has been Confuted thus. 1. They have given no Evidence to prove the Affirmative, though that lies on their part, who affirm. 2. It is not probable, because, as by the Account here repeated, and spoken to in the last *MERCATOR*, it appears, the Article of Serges, Perrets, Stuffs, &c. under which Heads the Cloth-Serges and Druggets are always Enter'd at the Custom-house, are vastly greater before the Treaty than after, which would hardly be if they were Prohibited. And, 3. Our Merchants, who Traded all those Years to Portugal assure us, the Serges and Druggets were never obstructed in Portugal, but they sent them thither all the while as freely before the Treaty, as at any time since.

The next Falshood, which these good People affirm is, *That our Trade to Portugal had no Ballance on our side before the Treaty of 1703.* This is so notorious a Forgery, and spoken so much without Book, that it is a Scandal to all the rest they have said, or shall say; and proves, that they speak what they think for their Turn, without concerning themselves to prove any thing they say: And the Account of Exports to Portugal for the Year 1700 being given *MERCATOR* No. 114. they are Challeng'd to shew, if they can, what we Imported that Year to Ballance it; noting also, that the said Year was the least of the last three Years before the Treaty.

To say we had no Ballance from Portugal, when we had such an Export as that was, is so barefac'd a Falshood, that nothing can be greater of its kind. What have the Portuguese to send to us? Their whole Growth and Produce consists in the following Particulars, (viz.) Wine, Oil, Sumach, Oranges, and Limons, Figs, Almonds, and Salt; and from the *Brasil*, Sugar, Hides, Tobacco, and Gold: Let them answer then the State given of that Year by the Importation of these Things, if they can.

In the mean time, let us then state another Year, viz. the Year 1702, which was the Year before this unlawful Treaty with Portugal; and when, it is to be supposed,



sed, we were most sensible of the Disadvantage of the Trade, and of the having no Ballance on our side. Our Exportations in Woollen Manufactures only, besides the several Exports of our own Growth and Produce, and besides our other Manufactures, which Articles include Wrought Iron, Wrought Brass, Lead, Copperas, Leather, Fish, Corn, and the like, stand thus:

15397	Pieces Bays Double
8117½	Ditto Minikin
147	Ditto Single
20	Cloths Broad
153	Ditto Long
244	Ditto Short
113½	Ditto Spanish
21	Ditto Yorkshire
13000	Yards Cloth Lists
280	lb. wt. Remnants
2140	Goads Cottons
320	Yards Flannel
159	Yards Frize
926	dozen Hats Bever
60	dozen Ditto Felts
602604	lb. wt. Perpets and Serges
321606	lb. Stuffs, Druggets and Ssays
1511	dozen Childrens Woollen Hose
485	— Ditto Woasted
5043	— Mens Woollen
12339	— Ditto Woasted
84	— Womens Woollen
48	— Ditto Woasted
	Blankets and Rugs ad Valorem
	17 l. 6 s. 6 d.

Let any Impartial Person cast up the Value of this Exportation to Portugal before the Treaty they boast so much of, and he shall find the Ballance so much on the English Side, that perhaps it has never been more since; except what the known progression of that Trade, without the help of the Treaty, has produced and would have produced, tho' the Portugal Treaty had not been made. Let us then View the main Article of our Importation for that Year, (viz.) The Wine and Brandy; their Quantity stands thus:

	Ton	Hhd	Gal.
Wines	—	5927	: — : 46
Brandy	—	17	: 1 : 60

All the rest of our Import from Portugal, tho' considerable to them, is not worth Naming, when match'd with our Export to them, except their Gold, of which by it self; as for Sugars and Tobacco's we take none, and of Salt but a small Quantity.

In short, the whole Years Import from Portugal, take it in its *prime Cost* there, as all such things ought to be reckoned, would do little more than Ballance the Article of Bays only, which at 4 l. the Double Bay, and 6 l. the Minikin Bay, comes to 112820 l. 10 s.

This evidently proves, that we had a Ballance on our Side in the Portugal Trade before, and without the help of this Treaty, and that a very considerable One; and we see no Reason to doubt a large Ballance after the Treaty with France is pass'd, tho' it may, as they tell us, interfere with this Portugal Treaty.

It is true, that upon the Treaty with Portugal, our Exportation of Woollen Cloths, which had been Prohibited, not only Importing there, but Wearing also, for the Reason express'd in the *MERCATOR*, No. 10, and no other Account, was Encreased.

But what was the Consequence of that Encrease? The Case was, that the Bays, Druggets and Cloth Serges, which were used in Portugal instead of Woollen Cloths, Decreased, in proportion as the Woollen Cloths Encreased, as may be seen in this short Account; and this is the Reason, why the Quantity of the said Cloths Exported was reserv'd to this place.

Exported in Woollen Cloths in the Year 1704,  
MORE than in 1702.

Wool.Cloths Voc.	Broad per Ps	50½
	Long per Ps	2129
	Short per Ps	5413
	Spanish per Ps	289½
		10493½
	Remnants per lb.	1802 lb. wt.

Exported in Stuffs, Bays and Serges, LESS in 1704, than in 1702.

Double Bays per Ps	7281
Serges and Perpets per lb. wt.	1. 178279½
Stuffs, Druggets, &c. per lb. wt.	1. 151051

Let any one Cast these against one another, and they will find, that tho' it is true upon making the Treaty with Portugal, we had a great Encrease of the Exportation of Woollen Cloths, even to Ten thousand Pieces, and 1802 lb. weight in Remnants, which is a very great Value; yet they will find, on the other Hand, that what was gotten in the Shire was lost in the Hundred, and that the Value was fully sunk in the abatement of Serges, and Druggets, and Bays, which were Exported that Year less than before; so that set One against the Other, the Exportation of the said Years was much the same.

If these People think to boast from hence, of our acknowledging the Portugal Trade to be very much for our Advantage, let them make the best of it: they will find a full Answer to it in the next *MERCATOR*.

#### ERRATA in the last Mercator.

Col. 3. last Line but 10, for *Sergets* read *Serges*. Ib. last line but 7, for *then* read *more*. In the Scheme of Goods, Col. 1. 2. 3. 11. 12. 15. 17. 19. for *Ditto* 1. in all those places read *Ditto*. Col. 3. l. 15. for 4816 r. 481. Ib. l. 17. for 26834 r. 20834. Col. 5. l. last but one, dele 8.

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